

PATENT

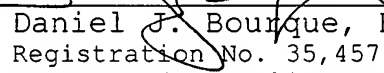
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application : Bulk et al.  
Serial No. : T/B/A  
Filed : Herewith  
For : Hearing Aid or Hearing Aid Components  
for Placement in the Auditory Canal  
and/or the Auricle of a Wearer  
Attorney's Docket : THIELK-029XX  
Examiner :  
Group Art Unit :

---

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 20, 2004. *Exp. Mail EV299 46400 US*

By

  
Daniel J. Bourque, Esquire  
Registration No. 35,457  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

---

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

Prior to the initial review of this non-provisional utility patent application entitled "Hearing Aid or Hearing Aid Components for Placement in the Auditory Canal and/or the Auricle of a Wearer" by Bulk et al., please amend the above-identified Patent Application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the entire specification with the attached substitute specification.